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it is only because where a man sits so distinctly at the head of a branch of literature as does Captain Mahan, his disciples cannot endure to see him slip for a moment into a lower position than that in which they delight to honor him. In any case, it may be safely said that nothing so valuable has come from his pen since the publication of his first three volumes on the *Influence of Sea Power*, nor anything of more living and practical suggestion, both for those who have to provide and for those who have to handle a great navy.

JULIAN S. CORBETT.

*William Pitt, Earl of Chatham, and the Growth and Division of the British Empire. 1708-1778.* By WALFORD DAVIS GREEN, M.P. [The Heroes of the Nation Series.] (New York and London: G. P. Putnam's Sons. 1901. Pp. xiii, 391.)

THE author of a book intended to form one of a popular series is faced by the difficulty of steering between a too scholarly presentation of the subject on the one hand, and a too elementary recital on the other. Mr. Green cannot be said to have been always successful in avoiding either danger. The many incidental allusions, especially to the lesser personages in politics, and the enumeration of Cabinet changes demand a wide and fairly exhaustive knowledge of English history to make them intelligible; and a very considerable knowledge of European affairs is also taken for granted in treating of the continental wars and intrigues. On the other hand, the story of the conquest of India and of Canada has been so often told that it seems unnecessary to go into the detail given, especially as nothing of note is added. Undoubtedly the task undertaken by Mr. Green is stupendous, as the aim of the series is to present a picture of the national conditions surrounding the hero in his career, and the national conditions surrounding Pitt from 1735 to 1788 involve a history of the whole civilized world. It can therefore hardly be a matter of surprise that the story fails to leave a clear impress on the mind and lacks force and continuity.

Mr. Green has availed himself of the newer historical sources. The publication of the Historical Manuscripts Commission have been freely drawn upon, and Mr. Green has also consulted the Newcastle Papers among the Additional Manuscripts in the British Museum. He acknowledges his indebtedness to the late Professor Tyler for new light on the American Revolution, and German and French writers have not been ignored in regard to the Seven Years' War. The quotation of authorities in foot-notes is commendable, but some exception might be taken to the scantiness of the index.

The value of Mr. Green's book lies in his sympathetic study of the character of the Great Commoner, and in his presentation of the popular minister and great statesman as a member of a most undemocratic and corrupt House of Commons; without the arts of the politician and without any loyal body of followers in Parliament, dominating that body by the force of his intellect and of his enthusiasm, and supported and kept

in power by the people of the country at large, though these people had no way of making themselves felt in the actual election of their so-called representatives. Mr. Green makes Pitt the embodiment of the spirit of England in the eighteenth century, of the England that arose from its humble place among the old-world powers, and gained for itself a world-wide empire, held together by the unquestioned supremacy of the sea—the England that then divided, showing the true English spirit in the American colonies which were forced to a separation by the unwisdom and obstinacy of King and ministers, while the maker of the empire stood by helpless except to utter warnings which went unheeded and prophecies too soon to be fulfilled.

The European wars of the eighteenth century, on the part of all the contestants, are set forth as absolutely non-moral. There was no sufficient cause to justify either the War of the Austrian Succession, the Spanish War, or the Seven Years' War; and Pitt sought for no such cause, indeed appeared to feel the need of none. It was enough for him that through these wars England could establish her empire and be assured of her place among the nations. He was always ready to take the offensive, to strike the first blow, and found his justification in the success of his policy. Yet even with this moral limitation, the figure of Pitt stands out like a colossus among the petty politicians of his time, politicians whom in some cases Mr. Green has perhaps somewhat belittled to enhance the greatness of his hero. Take the comparison of Pitt with Henry Fox. "Pitt looked to the nation for support, and sought great policies to serve; Fox devoted himself to politicians and thought of a policy as a lawyer thinks of his cause." Of Grenville and Pitt Mr. Green writes, "the pedantic and pedestrian mind of the one contrasted with the rapid imagination of the other; . . . it was a combat between the mechanical forces of talent and the irresistible energy of genius." Again in giving the reasons for the disagreement between Pitt and the Whig party, Mr. Green writes: "Such an one was Pitt, a man whose words, theatrical as they seemed at times, always represented the deepest realities to himself; whose love of liberty meant that he would have gone with a glad spirit to the scaffold, whose patriotism was a burning passion. This depth and ardour separated him from the Whigs who were the coldest of politicians, who when they imagined the constitution in danger were satisfied, if some man of good family uttered a gentlemanlike protest in the Commons."

Pitt's success was great. Considering the forces that opposed him and the impossibility of transmuting popularity into Parliamentary support, it was marvelous that this genius, distrusted by the King, and regarded with jealousy and dislike by Parliament, should have been able to make himself during some of the most critical years in their history the head of the English people. That his success was not greater, that he was not able to retain the high office which he had held with so much honor, is fully explained by Mr. Green. The great drawback to Pitt's character was his inability to get on with men, an inability that arose partly

from haughtiness and an overweening opinion of his own power, partly from suspiciousness, "the trick of suspicion usually the characteristic of small minds," and from contempt for the pettiness so often shown by his fellow-politicians. Because of these characteristics he stood apart and aloof while events were preparing for the great tragedy of the empire—the separation of the American colonies, which he foresaw and of which he so passionately warned the nation. The portraits with which the book is illustrated are well reproduced and serve to give substance to some of the shadowy sketches of Pitt's contemporaries with which the book abounds.

A. G. PORRITT.

*The Military Life of Field-Marshal George First Marquess Townshend, 1724–1807.* By Lt. Colonel C. V. F. TOWNSHEND, C.B. (London: John Murray. 1901. Pp. vii, 340.)

THIS is a very wearisome and futile volume; that it is so will perhaps be sufficiently explained by saying that it is in effect a family vindication of an unimportant ancestor, prepared by the present heir to the noble house of Townshend at the request of his grandfather. But family vindications, though always suspicious, are sometimes of much interest and value; it is quite conceivable that the military history of Great Britain in the later eighteenth century might have been illustrated in a valuable manner from the standpoint of the unattractive career of the first Marquess Townshend. It is necessary to point out clearly that this has not happened, and that the present volume is not only a failure as a vindication but is practically useless for any other purpose. It is not clear why the military career of George Townshend should have been chosen as the field of this vindication, seeing that he played a greater part in the political world and that his political fame is even more in need of rescue. However that may be, the fact remains that practically nothing is here added to our knowledge that is of importance or even interest; the material afforded by the papers of George Townshend is apparently of little value and his biographer has had no conception of how to make his work of any general interest. The claim made in the Preface that "The part of the work which describes the expedition to Quebec will be found to give many military details which up to now have been wanting in all histories of that memorable epoch" is entirely unwarranted, no new fact whatever of any importance being added to the standard accounts. "It will be seen," he adds, "that the unexpected and surprising manner in which Quebec was taken was the plan of the Brigadiers and not of Wolfe"; the uninformed reader would hardly expect to find that the facts here brought forward have long been known, that they are known on the testimony of Wolfe himself (Letter to the Earl of Holderness, Sept. 9, 1759. Here reprinted in full), and that they are embodied in the chief narratives, such as those of Parkman and Kingsford.

It is of course not to be expected that amateur and gentlemanly work (or play) of this kind should be in accord with the prejudices of modern